

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend figure 5 by adding the box 18 and signal lines to each solenoid, shown clouded in the attached marked-up sheet.

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of February 16, 2006. In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 5-7, 16, 20 and 21, objected to claims 8-15 and 17-19, and rejected claims 1-4.

The Examiner first objected to the drawings. With regard to the Examiner's objection to Figures 3 and 4, the Applicant has amended the specification to refer to Figures 6-16. No changes to the drawings are required. With regard to the Examiner's objection to the drawings for failing to show the electronics module 18, Applicant amends Figure 5 to show a box representing the electronics module 18.

The Examiner next objected to the disclosure for a few typographical errors. Applicant has corrected all of these errors above as well as an additional found error.

The Examiner next objected to claims 8-15 and 17-19 for presenting multiple dependent claims that depend from multiple dependent claims. Applicant has amended claims 7, 8 and 9 to remove multiple dependencies, which should overcome this objection.

The Examiner next objected to claim 1 for a grammatical error which has been corrected above.

The Examiner next rejected claims 1-4 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Banks* '290.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to add the descriptor "frictionally" to the description of the damping element to read:

“a dampening element to provide resilient damping of the pivoting movement of said second link in a second rotary direction opposite said first rotary direction, to progressively *frictionally* arrest pivoting movement of the second link in the second rotary direction.”

According to the preferred embodiment, this damping element is the dampening block 143 shown in Figure 16. As described in the specification, the dampening block 143 provides a contact surface 154 that is angled to be substantially tangential to the cam surface 148 of the arm 25. Preferably, a center point 156 of a radius 158 of the cam surface, the radius 158 that passes through a midpoint 162 of the contact area of the cam surface 148 with the block 143 (in the position shown in FIGS. 15 and 16), is offset by a distance d with respect to a pivotal axis 29a of the arm 25. This offset provides for a progressive *frictional* engagement of the cam surface 148 with the block contact surface 154 as the arm rotates clockwise about the axis 29a. Accordingly, the arm 25 comes to a controlled, frictionally-induced stop instead of substantially compressing the dampening block 143 which would otherwise cause a subsequent counterclockwise rebound or bounce.

Banks ‘290 discloses resilient buffers 90, 91 that are *compressed* between a stop means and mounting means by movement of a swing arm, column 2, lines 61-64. This reference does not disclose the damper of the present application that progressively frictionally arrests pivoting movement of the second link in the second rotary direction.

Applicant submits that the 102(b) rejection has been overcome and

requests withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner next indicated they claims 5-7, 16, 20 and 21 were allowed.

Applicant acknowledges this allowance with appreciation.

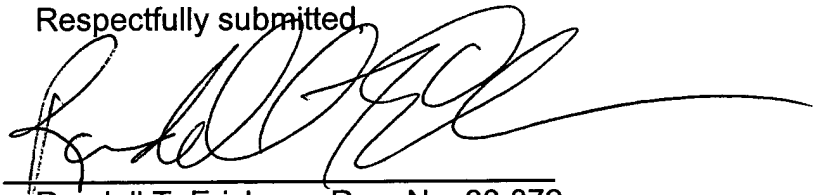
Some claims above have been corrected for antecedent clarity.

Applicant has added new claims 22-25 which also describe patentable inventions.

Applicant submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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